

XIII.—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREY HYPOCOLIUS
(*HYPOCOLIUS AMPELINUS*) IN NORTH KONKAN.

On November 14 (1930), I shot a male specimen of *Hypocolius ampelinus* at Kihim, Kolaba District. This bird, whose distribution is Persia, and which is found also in Bushire, Fao and other places on the shores of the Persian Gulf, seems never to have been recorded within Indian limits save (once?) as a very rare straggler on the Sind-Baluchistan border.

Its occurrence in the Konkan seems extraordinary. The specimen was solitary. While it is possible that it is an escaped cage-bird, its perfect plumage certainly bears no traces of recent captivity.

The bird was first seen amongst the bare thorny branches of a fallen Babool tree near a tidal creek, whence it once flew out to the ground a short distance away after an insect (?) exactly in the manner of a shrike, and returned to its perch. It appeared tame and fearless, allowing me to approach within a few feet as it sat fluffed out and low down on a branch.

A little later when I returned with the gun, it was still in the neighbourhood in a thick tangle of Lantana bushes, on the berries of which it was busy feeding in company with *Sturnia malabarica* and *Turdus m. nigropileus*. The stomach and intestines exclusively contained Lantana berries; 33 seeds were removed including some on the point of being excreted. Testes very small. Wing 98 mm.; bill 15 mm.; tarsus 22 mm. Upper mandible horny-black, lower flesh colour with dark tip; legs, feet and claws brownish flesh colour. Iris brown.

KIHIM,

SALIM A. ALI.

KOLABA DISTRICT,
November 20, 1930.

XIV.—COURTSHIP OF THE SCARLET MINIVET
(*PERICROCOTUS SPECIOSUS*).

The Scarlet Minivet is extremely common in the Naga Hills and may be seen moving about in large parties among the branches of low trees. On one occasion, about the end of February, I observed a pair of these birds hopping about in the branches as though they were courting. Of a sudden, I noticed the female fly off and go high up into the air; a second later, the male gave chase and before long caught her up and seized hold of the tip of her tail with his bill and in this attitude both of them came whorling down like a 'plane spinning'. Before reaching the earth the male released the female and both returned to the tree where they had been. Here they once more went through a series of hops on a branch and then, of a sudden, the female launched out into the air again